

Top 5 Reasons to Support the Common Core State Standards

1

Wisconsin's Voice

- Wisconsin educators, parents, community leaders, and the public provided input into the development of the standards before the state adopted them in 2010. Local schools decide how the standards should be taught and which resources to be used in curriculum.

2

Great for Students

- The CCSS are more rigorous than Wisconsin's previous standards and are on par with what is taught in leading countries around the world. They promote creative and critical thinking over rote memorization. They prepare students with the skills they need to succeed in a globally competitive workforce.

3

Great for Schools

- The CCSS are rigorous, clear, and specific at each grade level. Teachers are able to collaborate within and across disciplines to create new, innovative, and more effective ways to actively engage students in learning.

4

Great for Parents

- Because the CCSS are aligned with college and career expectations, students are better prepared for the demands they face after high school. College costs are reduced because there is less need for expensive, remedial, non-credit bearing courses. Students enter the workforce better equipped to earn a livable wage.

5

Great for the Economy

- These higher standards prepare students, our future workforce, with the skills that the workplace demands. A better prepared, more highly skilled workforce attracts new businesses to the state and allows current businesses to hire employees that are ready to work.

Top 5 Things Parents Need to Know about the Common Core State Standards

1

World Class Standards

- The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are rigorous, clear, and specific standards at each grade level, building the skills and knowledge students need to be prepared for college-level coursework and the demands of the 21st century workplace.

2

College and Career Ready

- Informed by academic standards in high achieving countries, the CCSS focus on the knowledge and skills students need to succeed in life after high school, in both post-secondary education, and a globally competitive workforce.

3

Standards Are Not Curriculum

- Although the CCSS establish consistent learning goals for all students, they do not define the curriculum that educators will use in the classroom. Curriculum decisions, like which textbooks to purchase and which books students should read, are made locally.

4

Better Standards, Better Assessments

- The Smarter Balanced Assessment, which replaces the WKCE in English Language Arts and math, measures students' application of knowledge and skills and provides more accurate and time-sensitive data to inform teaching and learning.

5

Cost Savings

- Because the standards are more rigorous and aligned with college and career expectations, students are less likely to need to take courses that cost money but don't count toward a degree in college. Also, the college entrance exam is fully funded by the state, so each student will have the opportunity to take the ACT at no cost. Students enter the workforce better equipped to earn a livable wage.

To learn more about the CCSS, visit <http://standards.dpi.wi.gov/families/families>.

Top 5 Things Educators Need to Know about the Common Core State Standards

1

World Class Standards

- The CCSS are more rigorous than Wisconsin's previous standards and are on par with what is taught in leading countries around the world. They promote creative and critical thinking over rote memorization and prepare students with the skills that they need to succeed in a globally competitive workforce.

2

Innovative

- The CCSS are rigorous, clear, and specific at each grade level, which eliminate the guesswork out of what students need to learn. This enables educators to create new, innovative, and more effective ways to actively engage students in learning and allows educators to more easily individualize instruction to meet student needs.

3

For All Educators

- The CCSS call for all educators to use the Standards for Mathematical Practice and the Standards for Literacy in All Subjects to support student learning in all classrooms in order to develop core skills such as to solve problems, communicate effectively, construct viable arguments, and to think critically and creatively.

4

Better Standards, Better Assessments

- The Smarter Balanced Assessment replaces the WKCE for math and ELA. It is computer adaptive, which will measure students' application of knowledge and skills and provide educators with more accurate and time-sensitive data to inform teaching and learning.

5

Forward, Not Backward

- Rigorous standards, aligned assessments, and educator and principal effectiveness work together to maximize student potential and ensure college and career readiness for all students.